

Columbia MD Family History Center Temple and Family History Consultant In-service Training Letter, June 2017

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Discovery Center

If you have not yet visited the Discovery Center, we highly recommend that you schedule a time early on. Your High Priest Group Leader and Bishop are responsible for recommending three families per month to Sister Gardner. Feel free to ask your HPGL to include you in his recommendation.

We make this suggestion so that you can see how we recommend that the members who attend the Discovery Center engage with you. We use an analogy that the old-fashioned Family Doctor who makes house calls is like the Temple and Family History Consultant, the first care giver. Similarly, when the members need specialist help, and/or specialized equipment and/or specialized resources, the Family History Center is like a hospital. The notion is that much, if not most, of the work can now be done at home, especially with the guidance of the T&FH Consultant. The FHC exists to provide additional help when needed.

In the Discovery Center we introduce the members to four FamilySearch companion programs/apps: FindaRecord.com, TreeSeek.com, Puzzilla.org and RecordSeek. These instances of “computer magic” empower members to know what needs to be done and to have tools to do the work. If you are not already familiar with them, we invite you to ask for training or to teach yourself how to use them.

Your Tool Kit

As you are coming up to speed in your calling, you will want to “add” the following items to your “Tool Kit”:

- The four FamilySearch companion apps named above

- TeamViewer
- FamilySearch
 - Navigation around the site and use of its many features
 - The Consultant Planner
 - Access to the five partner website through FamilySearch.org/PartnerAccess

Training is available for each of these tools for the asking. We can get you started over the telephone and/or via a TeamViewer session so you can learn at home. A consultant does not need to be an expert genealogist, but familiarity with these tools will help you advise the members you serve.

When to Submit a Name to the Temple (and When Not To)

Another thing we tell members at the Discovery Center to expect from their T&FH Consultant is to know when to submit a name to the temple. Although it is tempting to yield to the encouragement of our leaders to submit names by submitting early, there are many problems that can be avoided by preparing well to submit names to the temple. Here are my personal guidelines:

- Never submit a name based on a single census. It is highly recommended that members try to find each of their ancestors in all of the censuses for which they were alive (see TreeSeek.com above for help with US Census entries). There are too many instances where a family is unknowingly submitted using the information from one census, when the same family is submitted with slightly different names and dates by another member based on a different census.
- Always check for possible duplicates before submitting, avoiding the disappointment of performing all of the ordinances for someone who has already received all of the temple blessings, another often-repeated scenario. Temple work is real work, consuming time and energy: reduce duplication as much as possible.
- The ideal would be to have a birth record, all of the censuses, a marriage record and a death record for every name submitted. While that is not always possible, especially for families living before 1800, modern tools help us get ever closer to that ideal in many situations.
- To be “Worthy of All Acceptation,” each person in FamilySearch/Family Tree should have the name found in a birth record (the “gold standard”) in the name feature in the Vital Information section. There is a place for nicknames in the Other Information section. For example, few, if any, men were known as “Senior” at birth; that title is something that may become necessary or convenient later in life.

Be Proactive

Although the High Priest Group Leader supervises T&FH Consultants in the ward, the training available through the Consultant Planner suggests that we seek out those who may become interested in family history. If you work a shift at the FHC, especially at night, you may want to invite members of your ward (and other friends) to come for some personal help. If the person asks for more help, consult with the HPGL to coordinate who is assigned to help that

member. People who have attended the Discovery Center should definitely be assigned to a consultant who will check to see how they are doing on their family history goals (a joke in the Discovery Center presentation is that people will be allowed to go home once Sister Gardner sees that they have a goal written on the 3x5 card she provides).

Riverton FHC Weekly Hints

The large Family History Center in Riverton, Utah has a marvelous web page. They have lots of helps for Temple and Family History Consultants as well as for anyone interesting in Family History. I suggest that you take a look at it to see the fun things they have that are useful for us. They are also willing to let you sign up for their weekly family history "hints."

To find them on line go to:

1. Riverton FamilySearch Library/Class Schedule
2. From here you can see lots of wonderful information
3. Under the bolded words "Tip of the Week" click on "Click Here" and you will be able to register for the weekly tip of the week

I hope you enjoy this wonderful site!